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#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### DISTRICT OF OREGON

TECHNOFIRST S.A.,

Civil Action No. 3:05-cv-1861 HA

Plaintiff,

v.

DECLARATION OF DR. CHRISTIAN E. CARME

FLIGHTCOM CORPORATION,

Defendant.

I, Dr. Christian E. Carme, declare as follows.

1. I am the Chief Executive Officer and Research and Development Manager for TechnoFirst S.A. ("TechnoFirst"), and I make this declaration in support of TechnoFirst's

Response to Flightcom's Motion for Sanctions and in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Partial Summary Judgment.

- 2. TechnoFirst is the sole owner of U.S. Patent Number 4,833,719. I am a named reco-inventor of this patent ("the '719 patent") (Enclosure 1).
  - 3. TechnoFirst is located in Aubagne, France. I reside in Marseilles, France.
- 4. It is my understanding that Flightcom Corporation asserts that neither TechnoFirst nor its U.S. patent counsel, Mr. Paul Grandinetti of the firm Levy & Grandinetti, properly investigated the infringement of Flightcom's products before initiating this litigation. I do not intend to be disrespectful, but I find this assertion preposterous.
- 5. I first met Mr. Grandinetti in late 2000. He was referred by two other U.S. attorneys to TechnoFirst as a possible patent litigation attorney. I conducted several interviews with Mr. Grandinetti over a few months. These interviews involved numerous discussions of the '719 patent, its claims, its examination by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, and possible infringers.
- 6. I have personal knowledge that during this period Mr. Grandinetti became very familiar with the technology of this patent. This knowledge was facilitated by Mr. Grandinetti's training in the U.S. Navy in basic electronics and sonar acoustics.
- 7. In the early 1990s I conducted conversations with many U.S. companies in an effort to obtain a licensee or joint venture partner to assist in the marketing and distribution in the United States of TechnoFirst's patented technology. These discussions included companies such as David Clark Company Incorporated, Flightcom Corporation, and others. Many companies, including David Clark and Flightcom, expressed interest in and conducted multiple

discussions and studies related to this proposal. Unfortunately, no business arrangement was concluded.

- 8. In the late 1990s TechnoFirst became aware of numerous companies in the United States selling headsets and other equipment that involved active noise reduction ("ANR") technology. TechnoFirst began to acquire samples of headsets, which contained this technology, from these companies. TechnoFirst examined these headsets and made a determination as to which headsets most likely infringed the '719 patent. I prepared a list of the most likely infringers for Mr. Grandinetti on June 13, 2001. This list included headsets acquired and examined by me that were sold by David Clark and Flightcom.
- 9. In mid-2001 TechnoFirst was primarily concerned with activities of David Clark because at that time it appeared that David Clark was the most successful company in the United States that TechnoFirst believed copied the technology of the '719 patent. TechnoFirst authorized Mr. Grandinetti's firm to bring suit against David Clark in mid-2002.
- 10. After authorizing Mr. Grandinetti to bring suit against David Clark,
  Mr. Grandinetti conducted numerous telephone and personal conversations with me regarding
  the '719 patent and my bases for believing that the David Clark headsets infringed the patent.
  During these many conversations, Mr. Grandinetti explained to me the importance of properly
  analyzing the likelihood of infringement before litigation is filed. At one point I sensed
  Mr. Grandinetti's cautious reception of my explanations, and I simply asked him, "Do you want
  to get another person" to analyze the David Clark headsets? Mr. Grandinetti immediately said,
  "Yes." I authorized Mr. Grandinetti to identify and acquire the services of anyone with whom he
  felt comfortable. Mr. Grandinetti acquired the services of Dr. Robert J. Bernhard of the Herrick

Laboratories of Purdue University for this purpose. I know both Dr. Bernhard and the Herrick Laboratories to be world-renowned specialists in acoustics. Mr. Grandinetti did not include me in the communications with Dr. Bernhard or the Herrick Laboratories because he explained that Dr. Bernhard did not desire to serve as an expert in litigation or appear in any trial. All communications were conducted between Mr. Grandinetti and Dr. Bernhard and kept confidential.

- 11. After some months Mr. Grandinetti informed me that he received sufficient assurances to proceed in litigation against David Clark. The litigation was filed against David Clark and its electronics manufacturer, Thales Defence Limited, in February 2003.
- 12. David Clark is the industry leader in headsets, including active noise reduction headsets. Thales is a very large multi-national corporation specializing in electronics.

  TechnoFirst did at the time and continues to do business with one or more Thales entities.
- 13. During the early months of the litigation with David Clark and Thales,
  Mr. Grandinetti exhibited courtesy in all of his communications with these companies. This
  behavior surprised and pleased me, because the attorneys for these two companies made many
  threats and accusations against both TechnoFirst and Mr. Grandinetti in a manner similar to that
  currently exhibited by Flightcom. Eventually, Mr. Grandinetti and I met at the TechnoFirst
  offices with the director of Thales and one of his corporate attorneys from the United Kingdom.
  This meeting began with many denials by Thales of infringement and many expressions as to
  why Thales did not believe that the David Clark product infringed. Mr. Grandinetti listened
  politely, and when these individuals had completed their statements, Mr. Grandinetti addressed
  each of their technical arguments and was able to explain in simple terms the technology claimed

in the '719 patent. The two individuals became quiet and at one point expressed a statement to the effect that they now understood for the first time the reason that Thales was accused of infringement. Mr. Grandinetti did not require my assistance in making this technical explanation of the patent or its technology.

- 14. A few months after this meeting, David Clark and Thales came to terms with TechnoFirst and its co-owner of the patent, CNRS. CNRS is the government research facility where I was employed when I conducted the research that resulted in the '719 patent. The terms of the Settlement Agreement are confidential, but Thales paid a substantial amount of money to TechnoFirst and CNRS. Thales agreed to place the number of the '719 patent on each of its circuit boards. It is my understanding that this Settlement Agreement was provided to Flightcom's attorneys.
- 15. I provide this story about my first experience of being represented by Mr. Grandinetti for a few reasons. First of all, I know him to be an extremely cautious and thorough attorney. The case against David Clark was my first experience with U.S. litigation, and Mr. Grandinetti taught me the necessity and importance of confirming a reasonable belief regarding infringement before beginning a lawsuit. Second of all, I was impressed with the studying in which Mr. Grandinetti engaged regarding the technology of the '719 patent and the knowledge and understanding of that technology that he acquired. He was able to speak with great confidence regarding this technology and also explain it in simple terms to others. The result of his skills obtained a financially beneficial license for TechnoFirst. David Clark and Thales are substantial companies that sell their product to the U.S. Marine Corps and others. It is my opinion that either of these two companies was more than capable of proving its threats and

and accusations against TechnoFirst, the '719 patent, or Mr. Grandinetti's procedures, if there had been any merit in them.

- 16. After the litigation with David Clark, TechnoFirst initiated a prolonged negotiation with CNRS to acquire full rights and ownership of the '719 patent. This negotiation lasted almost two years and was concluded in early 2005. Shortly after this negotiation was completed, I authorized Mr. Grandinetti to engage in the necessary activities to investigate and, if proper, bring suit against Flightcom.
- 17. I provided Mr. Grandinetti with a headset that I had acquired from Flightcom, and he informed me that he would again acquire the services of Dr. Bernhard and the Herrick Laboratories to analyze the headset before commencing litigation. Again, this procedure took many months, and it is my understanding that Mr. Grandinetti also traveled to Purdue University to meet personally with Dr. Bernhard at the laboratory. Again, all communications between Dr. Bernhard and Mr. Grandinetti were private, and the specifics were not provided to me, because Dr. Bernhard did not desire to be an expert in the litigation or at trial. After some months, Mr. Grandinetti reported to me that he received the assurances necessary to proceed against Flightcom. This action against Flightcom was then initiated on behalf of TechnoFirst.

#### Brief Description of the '719 Patented Technology

18. The technology of the '719 patent is described so as to claim the invention broadly but also to explain the preferred embodiments of the invention. The basic purpose of this invention was to enhance passive soundproofing devices such as headsets to further suppress noises which may be harmful to one's ears and, more importantly, which may prevent one from hearing voices such as those transmitted by radio to a pilot.

19. In the past, headsets were little more than cup-like pieces filled with foam, cotton, or similar loose fibers or foam. A pilot, crew member in a tank, or operator of heavy equipment, for example, wearing these passive soundproofing headsets, would be protected from very loud noises but would still hear sounds of low audio frequencies caused by the roar of engines, fans, and other equipment. These low audio frequencies are below the frequencies made by a human voice in normal speech. My research and patent focused on providing active noise reduction at least to low frequency sounds which are responsible for the background rumble in vehicles and hinder human voice communication. I explained this in my patent as follows:

It is known that passive soundproofing means are poor attenuators of low frequency sounds, i.e. sounds at frequencies below 500 Hz, which sounds are very common in some noise, for example vehicle engine noise.

(Enclosure 1, U.S. Patent No. 4,833,719, column 3, lines 60-63.)

- 20. The industry does not always use consistent definitions for the terms "low audio frequencies" or "low frequency sounds." However, based on my professional experience, the terms "low audio frequencies" and "low frequency sounds" are almost always considered to be between zero and 500 Hz and most certainly include frequencies between 50 and 450 Hz. These frequencies are responsible for the roar or rumble of many vehicle engine noises.
- 21. When I was conducting my research and preparing my patent application, I included work with active noise reduction in the range of low audio frequencies as defined above, but sometimes the range also including higher frequencies. For example, Figure 5 in my patent illustrates a preferred embodiment of the invention wherein:

[A]ttenuation lying between 0 dB and 8 dB is obtained in the frequency band 20 Hz to 55 Hz, with very good attenuation lying between 0 dB and 50 dB being obtained in the frequency band from 65 to 2,000 Hz, and with slight attenuation being obtained between 3800 Hz and 20,000 Hz.

(Enclosure, 1, U.S. Patent No. 4,833,719, column 10, lines 38-44.)

22. The broad claims of my patent, such as claim 1, do not require this broad spectrum of active noise reduction. This broad spectrum is a preferred embodiment and renders a very desirable commercial product. I requested Mr. Grandinetti to demonstrate the TechnoFirst commercial headsets to the Court when he has an opportunity. I provided him with a headset, as sold by TechnoFirst in Europe, and he has the necessary converters to operate the headset on the American electrical system. These commercial headsets go beyond the minimum requirements of claim 1 of the '719 patent and provide a luxurious active noise reduction in almost any environment found within or around a vehicle such as an airplane, train, tank, truck, etc.

#### The TechnoFirst Experience with Flightcom

23. I was actively searching in the early 1990s for a licensee or joint venture partner to assist TechnoFirst in the marketing and distribution of its patented technology in the United States. In 1992 I met Mr. Claude J. Chauveau. Mr. Chauveau was consulting for Flightcom at this time and became very interested in the TechnoFirst technology and '719 patent.

Mr. Chauveau arranged to introduce me to the management at Flightcom. I visited the Flightcom facility and met with many individuals including technical personnel and Mr. Brian Vander Ploeg, President of Flightcom. During this meeting and in many telephone conversations that occurred over many months, Mr. Vander Ploeg and others at Flightcom expressed great interest in the TechnoFirst technology, the '719 patent, and a business arrangement with TechnoFirst. I

was greatly encouraged by these talks, which included discussions of the assistance of Flightcom in identifying Taiwanese or other Asian sources for components in the TechnoFirst equipment. I include a sample of correspondence with Flightcom in this regard. (Enclosure 2, TechnoFirst production numbers 100-391 through 100-394.)

- 24. These active negotiations also included the sale to Flightcom of six TechnoFirst headsets for examination and analysis. I include the invoice for this transaction. (Enclosure 3, TechnoFirst production numbers 100-395 through 100-400.) After receiving substantial technical and other information from TechnoFirst regrading its patented and other technology, Flightcom ceased communications with TechnoFirst. Some years later, TechnoFirst learned that Flightcom was selling at least headsets which included active noise reduction. The Flightcom headsets were primarily marketed to aviation pilots, which comprise the primary market for which TechnoFirst discussed forming a business arrangement with Flightcom.
- 25. TechnoFirst acquired a Flightcom Denali® ANR headset having active noise reduction. This headset is the headset provided to Mr. Grandinetti before the litigation. It is the same headset that he provided to Herrick Laboratories for analysis. I know this statement to be factual, because Mr. Grandinetti returned this headset to me after he reported that the Herrick Laboratories concluded its analysis and before he filed the litigation. The headset was returned to me in a condition wherein both earpieces had been opened and the circuitry exposed.
- 26. Mr. Grandinetti called me after I received the headset. I informed Mr. Grandinetti that I was disgusted to see the inside of the Flightcom headset, because it included the very components that TechnoFirst described and discussed with Flightcom in 1992 and 1993. I was disturbed that Flightcom refused further discussions with me and proceeded to copy my patented

technology. These components are described in the '719 patent and recited in, for example, claim 1 as follows:

1. Apparatus for attenuating externally originating noise reaching the eardrum, the apparatus being of the type including passive soundproofing means which together with each ear delimits a respective cavity, and also including an electro-acoustic transducer and a microphone disposed inside each said cavity and interconnected via a feedback loop including a constant gain amplifier and a filter with which they constitute an active sound attenuator . . . .

(Enclosure 1, U.S. Patent No. 4,833,719, column 13, line 67, through column 14, line 7.)

27. I confirmed to Mr. Grandinetti that based upon my professional experience and familiarity with the components of the Flightcom headset that I was certain that it met the remaining requirements of claim 1:

the apparatus being characterized in that the transfer function C(w) of said filter is a complex polynomial function and in that the product of the constant gain K of said amplifier multiplied by the modulus |C(w)| of the transfer function of said filter and by the modulus |H(w)| of the open loop transfer function as measured at the input to said transducer and at the output from said microphone is considerably greater than unity throughout the range of low audio frequencies which are to be attenuated and satisfies the stability criterion for all audible frequencies.

(Enclosure 1, U.S. Patent No. 4,833,719, column 14, lines 7-17.)

28. Mr. Grandinetti indicated that his investigation confirmed that my statement was correct. I encouraged him to proceed with the litigation in a manner and at a pace acceptable to him. After a few weeks Mr. Grandinetti presented me with a proposed complaint accusing Flightcom of patent infringement, which I reviewed in detail and then signed the verification. Mr. Grandinetti subsequently filed this litigation.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on (date).

3rd February 2006

Date

Dr. Christian E. Carme

Chief Executive Officer and Research and

Development Manager TECHNOFIRST S.A.

# FLIGHTCOM

March 30th, 1993

To: Christian

TechnoFirst SA.

# 33-91-054343

Fren: Allan Schrader

Flightcom Corp.

# 503-620-2943

Subject: Attached P.O. for SAMCOM headsets

Greetings to you. I'm the Operations V.P for flightcom and delighted to be working with you. Attached is the P.O. for the first 6 pieces of your Active Noise-cancelling headsets. I was alled to hear you can ship them soon so we can give them a great interested in seeing Spring aviation show. I'm personally VERY interested in seeing actual customer response to the performance and pricing.

Claude said you would ship them next week. We would really need them by around 4-13 so they should ship no later than 4-9. I have provided specific instructions regarding who to contact for forwarding the freight to us in Portland. These people (TTA Air Fret) are agents for our Customs clearance house and will provide us the best service.

Let be know it there is anything slas I need to do. I'll look fleaward to your confirmed shipment information when available. Thanks, in advance, for your rapid support of our needs.

Allan K. Schrader

FEIGHTCOM CORPORATION 7340 SW Deman: Rd Portiend, Oregon 97224 800/432-4342 503/684-8229 FAX 503/680-2043



#### **VERY URGENT**

To:

FLIGHTCOM

ATTN MANAGER

MR. BRIAN

Ref: nd 1193.738

Date: 25TH NOVEMBER 93

Fax:

Phone:

Number of pages: 1

From:

**CH.CARME** 

PLEASE CONTACT US IF YOU HAVE A TRANSMISSION FAILURE

Dear sir,

We are pleased to inform you that Mr CARME from TECHNOFIRST (FRANCE) will come to the States in December. He would like to meet you and Mr CHAUVEAU. He proposes you Monday or Tuesday 21st, 22nd December at Portland in your company.

Please tell us if these dates are suitable for you. We already left two messages to Mr CHAUVEAU but it seems he is absent.

Waiting for your reply and thanking you in advance.

Sincerely yours,

Nathalie (Mr CARME's secretary)





FLIGHTCOM Corporation 7340 S.W Durham Rd PORTLAND 97224 OREGON U.S.A

N/réf BB.ND 294.035

Le 4 Février 1994

A l'attention de Monsieur Claude CHAUVEAU

Monsieur,

Veuillez trouver ci-joint les courbes d'atténuation des casques envoyés dans ce paquet.

En vous en souhaitant bonne réception.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur, l'expression de nos salutations distinguées.

**B.BOULANGER** 

:3:3328 3180a

\*\*\*\*\* Flightoom Corporation \*\*\*\*\*

Date : April 20, 1994

Pages : 1

To : Monsieur Christian Carme

Monsieur B. Boulanger

Fax Phone: 4-203-0643

From : Chuck Inmon - Chief Operating Officer

Subject : ANR HEADSETS

Bon Jour,

Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Chuck Inmon and have assumed the duties of Chief Operating Officer for Flightcom Corporation.

We are in receipt of your six ANR headsets. We are very impressed with the improvement of performance but have some questions regarding the clicking and popping that occurs with three of the units. Is this a normal occurance?

Mr. Vanderploeg has indicated that you would like some assistance getting printed circuit boards built by some of our suppliers. I will be leaving for Asia in about ten days. If I can be of assistance please let me know what you need to have built and any available specifications.

Best regards,

Chuck Innon

# PURCHASE DROER

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 NO.

AKS-3006

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NET 30 DAYS

SHIP TO:

FLIGHTCOM CORPORATION 7340 S.W. DURHAM RD PORTLAND, OR 97830

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Dr. Carme Decl. Enclosure 3

TechnoFirst S.A. 100-395



FLIGHTCOM Corporation 7340 S.W. Durham Rd. PORTLAND, OR 97224 USA

to Mr. Claude Chauveau/ Allan K. Schrader/ Ed. M. Jones

Marseille, le 9 Avril 1993

Ref: BB/FA493-012.

#### INVOICE

purchase order n°: AKS-3006 dated March 30th, 1993 reference: Claude C. Quote

quantity: 6, headset SAMCOM with active noise control system with batteries box and charger.

unit price 545.00 US\$

total price 3 270.00 US\$

goods of France origin

terms of payment: net 30 days

Technofirst bank: Crédit Lyonnais,code banque: 30002,code guichet: 02935 compte n°: 0000066505 A,clé RIB: 91

domiciliation: Crédit Lyonnais Marseille centre des affaires du Prado,

Technoffrst



FLIGHTCOM Corporation 7340 S.W. Durham Rd. PORTLAND, OR 97224 USA

to Mr. Claude Chauveau/ Allan K. Schrader/ Ed. M. Jones

Marseille, le 9 Avril 1993

Ref. BB/PI493-010.

## PROFORMA INVOICE

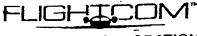
quantity: 6, headset SAMCOM with active noise control system with batteries box and charger.

commercial and custom value: unit price 545.00 US\$ total price 3 270.00 US\$

goods of France origin-

## PACKING LIST

QTY	Description
6	headset SAMCOM with active noise control system
6	batteries box
6	charger



## FLIGHTCOM CORPORATION

7340 S.W. DURHAM RD. PORTLAND, OREGON 97224 (503) 684-8229

# INVOICE

INVOICE NO .:

INVOICE DATE:

11-22-93

)LD TO:

TECHNOFIRST ZONE DE NAPOLLON 399 AVENUE DES TEMPLIERS 13676 AUBAGNE CEDEX FRANCE

PAGE: SHIP

TECHNOFIRST TO:

ZONE DE NAPOLLON

399 AVENUE DES TEMPLIERS

13676 AUBAGNE CEDEX

FRANCE

Ship Via:

TNT EXPRESS

P.O. Number:

Customer I.D.:

P.O. Date:

Our Order No.:

Salesperson:

Ferms:

FLEGU LE ZE NOV. 1893 Ship Date: Due Date:

ITEM	ORDER	. SHIP	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	AMOUNT
-		6	SAMCOM HEADSETS	N/C	N/C
	DEI	ECTIV	E SAMPLES W/O COMMERCIAL VAI VALUE FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES	.UE	\$20.00
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PAST DUE ACCOUNTS: INTEREST WILL BE CHARGED AT 11/2% PER MONTH, MINIMUM CHARGE \$1 PER MONTH

PLEASE PAY FROM THIS INVOICE - NO STATEMENT WILL BE SENT.



FLIGHTCOM CORPORATION 7340 S.W. DURHAM RD. PORTLAND. OREGON 97224 (503) 684-8229

OMER

# INVOICE

INVOICE NO.	INVOICE DATE	PAGE NO.
	12-29-93	

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				HIS INVOICE	Th	ank Y	OU!

TechnoFirst S.A. 100-399



FLIGHTCOM Corporation 7340 S.W Durham Rd. PORTLAND, 97224 OREGON U.S.A

For the attention of Mr Claude CHAUVEAU/ALIan K.SCHRADER/Ed. M. JONES

4th February 1994

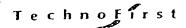
### PRO FORMA INVOICE N° BB 294.002

- Quantity: 6 Headsets SAMCOM with active noise control system.

No commercial value. Value for customs: 20 \$

## PACKING LIST

Quantity	Description
6	Headsets SAMCOM with active noise control system.





# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that a copy of the foregoing REVOCATION AND SUBSTITUTION OF POWER OF ATTORNEY and DECLARATION OF DR. CHRISTIAN E. CARME was served this date by first class mail, postage prepaid, upon:

Mr. Scott J. Pivnick
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP
1650 Tysons Boulevard
McLean, Virginia 22102

Mr. Craig D. Bachman LANE POWELL, PC 601 SW Second Avenue Suite 2100 Portland, Oregon 97204-3158

10 Apr 2006

Date

Paul Grandinetti

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